



Council *on* Education *for* Public Health

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CEPH Represents Specialized Accreditors at Senate Committee Hearing

SILVER SPRING, Md. – December 13, 2013 – Laura Rasar King, the executive director of the Council on Education for Public Health (CEPH), testified before the US Senate’s Committee on Health, Education, Labor and Pensions (HELP) on Thursday about how accreditation can meet the needs of 21st-century learning.

King represented specialized and professional accreditors at the hearing, which was held in preparation for the eventual reauthorization of the Higher Education Act.

“Specialized accreditation is high stakes for accreditors, students and the public due to the nature of professional practice; an improperly trained graduate could hurt someone,” King told the committee. “My colleagues and I take quality assurance very seriously.”

King also highlighted three areas that could be improved in the current system of accreditation. First, information provided to students and the public should be useful, current and presented in a manner that is understandable and easily accessible. Second, a greater understanding is needed about the relationship between accreditation and innovative education strategies. Accreditors must verify all strategies for quality but do not forbid new initiatives outright. Third, communication between and among institutional and specialized accreditors working within the same institutions could be enhanced.

King was joined by three other witnesses at the hearing: Daniel J. Phelan, president of Jackson College; Arthur Levine, president of the Woodrow Wilson National Fellowship Foundation; and Ralph Wolff, former president of the Western Association of Schools and Colleges.

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The Council on Education for Public Health (CEPH) is an independent agency recognized by the US Department of Education to accredit schools of public health and public health programs offered in settings other than schools of public health. These schools and programs prepare students for entry into careers in public health. The primary professional degree is the Master of Public Health (MPH) but other baccalaureate, masters and doctoral degrees are offered as well. Visit www.ceph.org for more information.